

OCT 06 2011

Part of
Public Record

OCT 6 2011

Cynthia T. Brown
Chief of the Section of Administration, Office of Proceedings Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, SW
Washington D.C.

231058

RE: Grenada Railway, LLC - Abandonment of railroad line in Mississippi - STB Docket AB-1087X

Dear Mrs. Brown,

I am writing in opposition to the application filed by Grenada Railway, LLC ("GRYR") for abandonment of the railroad line between milepost 622.5 near Grenada, Mississippi and milepost 703.8 near Canton, Mississippi, a distance of 81.3 miles in Grenada, Montgomery, Carroll, Holmes, Yazoo, and Madison counties in Mississippi.

One of the reasons cited in GRYR's Petition for Abandonment Exemption is that the line has a bad bridge located at milepost 656.4. According to GRYR's petition, this bridge was constructed in 1914, is 112 foot long, will cost \$784,000 to repair, and I quote "literally is falling apart." This bridge was so bad that it caused GRYR to place an embargo on this bridge on July 28, 2011.

If this information were true, surely a railroad company would not permit a train to operate over a bridge in this bad of condition. On August 9, 2011, twelve days after the embargo went into effect, GRYR ran a southbound train from Grenada, Mississippi, milepost 617.7, to Pickens, Mississippi, milepost 685.5 to switch Burrows Paper. This train returned to Grenada a day or two later. This train traveled over the bridge at milepost 656.4 on both its southbound and northbound trips. I have included a statement from Burrows Paper to prove GRYR ran this train.

If the bridge was as bad as GRYR states, surely the railroad would have issued a temporary speed restriction or "slow order" as they are commonly referred to in the railroad industry. The maximum speed on this rail line is 25 MPH. At any locations on the line where bad track or bridge conditions exist, railroad companies issue slow orders over these locations. On a typical 25 MPH rail line, slow orders will normally be 10 MPH for most restrictions or 5 MPH restrictions for locations that are barely passable.

I have included in this protest a copy of GRYR's DOB No.271. This document contains the speed restrictions for the entire GRYR line from Southaven, Mississippi to Canton, Mississippi on September 28, 2011. You will notice that there is not a speed restriction at milepost 656.4. The only speed restriction nearby is a 10 MPH at milepost 656.3. Since there is not a bridge at milepost 656.3 and the closest bridge is at milepost 656.4, I would assume this is an error and the restriction was intended for the bad bridge in question at milepost 656.4. If this is the case, you will notice that the speed restriction was added on August 16, 2011, nineteen days after the embargo went into effect. It seems that GRYR forgot to cover their bases when a bad

bridge had to be "found" between milepost 622.5 and milepost 703.8 in the proposed abandonment area to help the case for a successful abandonment.

Given this information, it leads me to conclude that either the bridge at milepost 656.4 is not in bad condition as GRYR states or that the GRYR knowingly instructed employees to operate a train over a bridge that was unsafe or in their words "literally is falling apart".

I would also like to point out that when the GRYR filed a Notice of Exemption, FD_35247_0 225104, in May of 2009 to acquire this line, I filed a Petition to Revoke Exemption, FD_35247_0 255221, in June of 2009. In my petition, I predicted that the GRYR would only operate the rail line for a short time and then abandon part or all of this rail line. Later in that month, GRYR replied, FD_35247_0 255288. On page 5 and 6 of this document, GRYR stated that "Grenada (GRYR) is committed to working with the shippers and communities on the lines to improve the railroad operations on the lines and develop them into viable businesses". Here we are, two years later, indeed just a short time, and as I predicted, GRYR is abandoning part of this line. In this two years time, to my knowledge, GRYR has not improved railroad operations on this line and has not worked with shippers or communities. In fact, in reading some of the other protests to this line, GRYR has done the opposite.

One last issue I would like to point out is that in GRYR's abandonment petition, GRYR did not include the number of bridge cars or overhead traffic that moved over the line between milepost 622.5 and milepost 703.8. The only two shippers that are located on the northern part of this line that I am aware of that ship cars south over this line is Graeber Brothers at Senatobia, milepost 430, and Bowater at Grenada, milepost 617.7. Bowater is a paper mill and is probably the largest customer on this line and the majority of Bowater's loads go south. Certainly, the number of cars coming from Bowater and Graeber Brothers that make up the overhead traffic that traveled over the proposed abandonment portion far exceeds the amount of cars that originates or terminates on this portion and should have been mentioned in GRYR's petition for abandonment.

The cars from Bowater and Graeber Brothers that used to go over the south end of this line have been rerouted through Memphis, Tennessee before continuing onto points south. It is my understanding that rerouting cars through Memphis, Tennessee with CN takes an additional one to two days of travel time to reach their destination vs. going directly to Canton, Mississippi and interchanging with CN that way.

Mrs. Brown, it is my hope that you will give this information considerable thought when making the decision to GRYR's abandonment petition. If this line is removed, it will more than likely never be back and the communities along this line will not stand a chance of economic development without it. If a favorable abandonment decision is inevitable, I would ask that the

decision be delayed for as long as possible. I also support the Mississippi Transportation Commission's Request for an Oral Hearing/Argument, 231009.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Sidney Bondurant".

Representative Sidney Bondurant

Certificate of Service

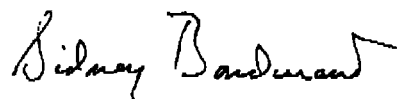
RE: Grenada Railway, LLC - Abandonment of railroad line in Mississippi - STB Docket AB-1087X

I, Sidney Bondurant, have served all parties of record listed below by first class mail on October 7, 2011.

Party of Record:	Brown, Walter Walter Brown Law Firm, PLLC P.O. Box 963 Natchez, MS 39121
Party of Record:	Cockroft, Mayor Jimmy W. City of Kosciusko 222 East Washington Street Kosciusko, MS 39090
Party of Record:	Diaz, Pablo Grenada County Economic Development District 81 S. Church Street Grenada, MS 38901
Party of Record:	Flanagan, Jim De Soto County Economic Development Council 316 West Commerce Street Hernando, MS 38362
Party of Record:	Hart, Mayor Larry City of Water Valley P.O. Box 888 Water Valley, MS 38965
Party of Record:	Kahn, Fritz Fritz R. Kahn PC 1920 N Street NW 8th Floor Washington, DC 20036-1601
Party of Record:	Nichols, J. Burke Carlisle Construction Materials 1201 Scott Street Senatobia, MS 38668
Party of Record:	Rone, James H. Newly Weds Foods

5980 Hunt Road
Lake, MS 38367

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sidney Bondurant". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'S' and a long, sweeping underline.

Representative Sidney Bondurant



October 5, 2011

Representative Sidney Bondurant,

We have received railcars off the Grenada Railway at Burrows Paper Corp. in Pickens, MS in the past. The last time that a railcar came into our mill at this location was on 8/10/11 and was released on 8/11/11.

Thanks,

**Joe Roberts
Mill Manager**

**196 Burrows Drive
Pickens, MS 39146**

**TEL 662.468.2183
FAX 662.468.2860**

www.burrowspaper.com

GRENADA / NATCHEZ RAILROAD DOB NO. 271**EFFECTIVE AT 0001 HOURS SEPTEMBER 28, 2011****(Void at 0001 SEPTEMBER 29, 2011 unless extended by Train Dispatcher)****DOB VERIFIED AT:****DISPATCHER:**☐ (Check box when complete) Complete Fuel Conservation Briefing with dispatcher: Shut Down, HPTT, Isolating, Train Handling.**ALL SUBDIVISIONS**

Void	Item	Form	Limits	Speed	From - Until	Foreman	Flags Displayed	F. INT & DATE & COND.
	1		LATEST GENERAL ORDER # 22				LATEST NOTICE # 06	
	2		TIME TABLE 03 IN EFFECT					

GRENADA SUBDIVISION

Void	Item	Form	Limits	Speed	From - Until	Foreman	Flags Displayed	F.INT & DATE & COND.
	3	A	408.5 - 409.5	10 MPH			NO FLAGS	VW 06-15-10 TRK
	4	A	412.0 - 412.3	10 MPH			NO FLAGS	VW 06-15-10 TRK
	5	A	417.8	10 MPH			NO FLAGS	VW 12-20-09 CVT
	6	A	419.0 - 419.5	10 MPH				VW 03-15-11
	7	A	422.0 - 422.5	10 MPH				VW 03-15-11
	8	A	422.3 - 422.7	05 MPH (BRIDGE)				PS 04-27-11
	9	C	428.0	WALKWAY ON BRIDGE BETWEEN FANNY MAY SIDING AND MAIN TRACK OOS.				PS 03-21-11
	10	A	428.0	10 MPH (BRIDGE)				VW 05-26-11
	11	A	439.0 - 439.7	10 MPH				RW 09-01-11
	12	C	450.1	SWITCH IS OOS ACCOUNT BAD FROG				JKD 09-24-09
	13	A	455.8	10 MPH				VW 09-06-11
	14	C	457.76	AUTOMATIC WARNING DEVICES MALFUNCTIONING (MAIN ST)				SBS 09-01-11
	15	C	486.8	WATER VALLEY SPUR IS OOS				
	16	A	618.8 - 619.0	10 MPH			NO FLAGS	VW 04-05-10 TIES
	17	A	620.1 - 621.0	10 MPH			NO FLAGS	VW 04-05-10 TIES
	18	C	623.7	HANKINS LUMBER #2 LEAD OOS				10-14-09
	19	C	623.95	BRIDGE WALKWAY OOS				
	20	A	626.0 - 626.5	10 MPH				VW 03-01-10 TIES
	21	A	630.0 - 631.0	10 MPH			NO FLAGS	

PREPARED ON: 9/27/2011 AT: 7:21 PM

GNRR DOB

1 of 3

GRENADA SUBDIVISION (continued)

Void	Item	Form	Limits	Speed	From - Until	Foreman	Flags Displayed	FJNT & DATE & COND.
	22	A	640.8	10 MPH			NO FLAGS	VW 01-08-10
	23	C	648.8	WALKWAY ON EAST SIDE OF BRIDGE OOS				
	24	A	656.3	10 MPH				VW 08-16-11
	25	A	660.0 - 703.8	10 MPH			NO FLAGS	RW 01-19-11
	26	C	<u>DURANT</u>	DURANT SIDING OOS				VW 09-29-10

NATCHEZ SUBDIVISION

Void	Item	Form	Limits	Speed	From - Until	Foreman	Flags Displayed	FJNT & DATE & COND.
	27	A	86.1 - 86.2	10 MPH			NO FLAGS	RW 10-27-09 SRF
	28	A	87.6 - 88.0	10 MPH (CURVE)				RLW 04-13-10 TIES
	29	C	88.2	ZETUS SPUR TRACK OOS ACCOUNT TRACK CONDITIONS				RW 10-01-09
	30	A	89.4 - 95.2	10 MPH				RLW 04-07-10 TIES
	31	C	91.7	COBBS SPUR TRACK OOS ACCOUNT TRACK CONDITIONS				RW 10-01-09
	32	A	98.0 - 106.2	10 MPH			NO FLAGS	RLW 12-28-09
	33	C	98.2	LUCIEN SPUR TRACK OOS ACCOUNT TRACK CONDITIONS				RW 10-01-09
	34	A	109.0 - 110.1	10 MPH			NO FLAGS	RLW 12-13-09 TIES
	35	A	111.9 - 114.9	10 MPH			NO FLAGS	GL 08-25-11 TIES
	36	A	119.3	10 MPH (BRIDGE)				VW 01-03-11
	37	A	119.9 - 120.0	10 MPH (BRIDGE)				RLW 02-03-10
	38	A	123.0 - 125.8	10 MPH			NO FLAGS	RLW 01-14-10 TIES
	39	C	124.7	ROXIE GP INDUSTRY LEAD SPUR TRACK OOS ACCOUNT TRACK CONDITIONS				RW 10-01-09
	40	A	128.0 - 136.6	10 MPH				RWL 04-07-10 TIES
	41	C	136.0	FENWICK SPUR TRACK OOS ACCOUNT TRACK CONDITIONS				RW 10-01-09
	42	A	142.6 - 148.0	10 MPH				
	43	C	144.0 - 148.0	USE CAUTION ACCOUNT TRIPPING HAZARD DUE TO TIES ALONG TRACK.				RLW 12-12-09 TIES
	44	C	144.0	JOHNSVILLE SIDING TRACK IS OOS ACCOUNT TRACK CONDITIONS				RW 10-01-09

NATCHEZ SUBDIVISION (continued)

Void	Item	Form	Limits	Speed	From - Until	Foreman	Flags Displayed	F.INT & DATE & COND.
	45	C	144.8		INDUSTRY SPUR TRACK	OOS ACCOUNT MOW EQUIPMENT		RW 10-24-09
	46	C	144.9		INDUSTRY SPUR TRACK	OOS ACCOUNT TRACK CONDITIONS		RW 10-01-09
	47	A	<u>NATCHEZ YARD</u>		DO NOT EXCEED 10 MPH IN NATCHEZ YARD			RW 12-05-09
	48	C	<u>NATCHEZ YARD</u>		#1 TRACK IS OOS			RLW 12-04-09
	49	C	<u>NATCHEZ YARD</u>		#2 TRACK IS OOS			RLW 12-04-09
	50	C	<u>NATCHEZ YARD</u>		#4 TRACK IS OOS			RLW 12-04-09
	51	C	<u>NATCHEZ YARD</u>		#5 TRACK IS OOS			RLW 12-04-09
	52	C	<u>NATCHEZ YARD</u>		#6 TRACK IS OOS			RLW 12-04-09
	53	C	<u>NATCHEZ YARD</u>		ELEVATOR SPUR OOS			RW 10-08-09
	54	C	<u>NATCHEZ YARD</u>		JONES LUMBER LEAD SPUR OOS			RW 10-08-09

WATER VALLEY SUBDIVISION

Void	Item	Form	Limits	Speed	From - Until	Foreman	Flags Displayed	F.INT & DATE & COND.
	55	C	148.34 - 86.0		WATER VALLEY SPUR IS OOS			

END OF DOB NO. 271 SEPTEMBER 28, 2011

TOTAL OF 55 ITEMS AND 03 PAGES

ARDC PHONE NUMBER (802) 527-3432

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBER 866-527-3498 FOR EMERGENCY USE ONLY

OR 802-527-3498

